



Churches Under Christ Newsletter

January 1, 2020

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and one and only head of **HIS** churches.

A ministry under the authority of Charity Baptist Tabernacle, Amarillo TX, Pastor Ben Hickam.

Purpose of the ministry: To Glorify God in helping churches organize totally under the Lord Jesus Christ and operate according to New Testament Church Doctrine.

This conflict between the church/state establishment and God's people and churches has always been over the authority over God's children and churches as to eternal matters.

- Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I** will build **my** church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- Ephesians 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave **him to be the head over all things to the church.**"
- Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

2019 IN REVIEW

Dr. Greg Dixon, one of the great heroes of the faith, my beloved mentor and friend, went home to be with the Lord on October 20, 2019. He was a champion for the unregistered church movement in America. This ministry carries on the work he led as best we can.

In 2019, this ministry helped fourteen churches in nine different states as they began the process of establishing the common law (Bible) trust. Most of those churches have already executed necessary documents and are now operating the New Testament way as churches under Christ alone.

In addition to that, the ministry received inquiries from many believers concerning church 501(c)(3) status, church incorporation, and related matters. For some of the more interesting stories concerning these activities, see [Church Members are approaching their pastors about church corporate 501c3 status, some are leaving churches who refuse to repent of that status, and some are seeking to communicate with their pastors about the matter!](#)

The ministry received calls and requests for help from some churches and ministries whom the ministry cannot help. For example, the ministry will not help a church with a woman pastor, a transvestite pastor, a sodomite pastor, or a lesbian pastor. This and other important matters are made clear in [Questionnaire 1](#) which all churches are required to complete.

After all the matters [Questionnaire 1](#) are ironed out, the ministry now mails out [Questionnaire 2](#) to be completed, returned and discussed. Once it is determined from [Questionnaire 2](#) that the church has a basic understanding of important matters, the church is ready to proceed to the drafting and execution of trust documents. Some of the churches whom this ministry and the BLC have helped over the years do not understand what they have done and are not prepared to uphold the integrity of the trust arrangement after execution of documents. [Questionnaire 2](#) will help to make sure that a church proceeds with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

Warning to trustees of already up and going common law (Bible) trusts: It is of upmost importance that the trustee of the trust stay in contact with this ministry after the trust is established as church and trust affairs are being ironed out properly in such a manner that neither the integrity of the church nor the trust relationship are compromised. The trustee should consult with this ministry before opening a bank account, purchasing real estate for a meetinghouse, applying for property tax exemption, and so forth. Do not intermix trust functions with legal actions on the part of the church. Even though the church establishes the trust relationship with property, the church is not the trust, the trust is not the church, and the trust estate belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. For example, suppose a church establishes a common law (Bible) church trust. Further suppose that the church continues to use an existing bank account in the name of the church rather than closing that account followed by the trustee opening a new trust account. That church and that trustee have not proceeded according to knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. The church is acting legally alongside and with a common law (Bible) trust structured as a non-legal entity. True, churches get away with a lot worse and will probably “get away” with this; but that does not nullify the lack of wisdom displayed. And it is possible that the chickens may come home to roost for that church and that trust. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Even though the church and the trust “get away” with doing things out of order, the Lord knows what is going on. See the **December 27, 2019** entry below for another of many examples.

A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING DECEMBER 2019

When viewing this Newsletter online, left click the name of the article, book or website address to go directly to it. Feel free to give me a call at 512-785-8445 if you cannot access a resource in the Newsletter.

Below is just some of the ministry activities. In December 2019 I worked with pastors, churches, and other believers to include the following:

1. **December 2, 2019:** Call from a church which established the trust relationship in 2017. The bank was bought out and the new bank insists that the trust account use an EIN and not the SSAN of the trustee for the account. I attached the EIN PowerPoint I have to an e-mail to him along with links to online PDFs of the SS-4 form used to apply for the EIN. The PowerPoint explains how to fill out the SS-4 line by line so as not to compromise the non-entity status of the trust and church and open the bank account for banking purposes only. I also asked the pastor to give me a call after he fills out the SS-4 before he submits it so we can go over the completed form line by line to assure no mistakes were made.

2. **December 2, 2019:** Published [Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines of the Churches Under Christ Ministry](#).
3. **December 6, 2019:** December 6, 2019, prepared and sent documents to another church in Texa(OPBC at Washburn)
4. **December 10, 2019:** Call from a church in Wisconsin referred by Brother Greg. Discussed church organization, etc. with one of the pastors.
5. **December 10, 2019:** **Talked at length to a very dear Christian couple in Michigan who left their church because the pastor would not intelligently discuss with them church organization. The church is incorporated and 501(c)(3).**
6. **December 10, 2019:** Received the news that another church in Indiana has executed their documents and now are organized perfectly as a church under Christ!
7. **December 11, 2019:** Sent initial letter, "Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines," and Questionnaire to an elder of a church in Minnesota.
8. **December 17, 2019:** Published [The Chickens are Coming Home to Roost: The impending consequences of church corporate tax exempt status: civil government denial of federal tax exemption, property tax exemption and other benefits: student loss of church owned properties, denial of student loans, the end of charitable hospital services, etc.](#)
9. **December 21, 2019:** Sent initial letter, "Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines," and Questionnaire to church in New Jersey.
10. **December 26, 2019:** Published [Questionnaire 1](#) and [Questionnaire 2](#) on the Churches under Christ website.
11. **December 27, 2019:** This is not to embarrass or chide the pastor in any way. We can all learn from one another's mistakes. Of course, I have made many mistakes myself. This mistake will be corrected, but it will require some work that would not otherwise have been necessary. A pastor who had obtained an EIN for the newly opened trust bank account without consulting with this ministry called. He filled out the application for the EIN incorrectly and the IRS notified him that he will have to submit form 1041. This ministry helped a pastor 2 or three years ago with the same problem and will help this church. The first situation resulted in the IRS withdrawing their order that the trust submit form 1041. That will have to be the outcome with this new situation because the form 1041 cannot be applied to the church common law trust. This could happen to any church in the process of getting the trust up and going. **The important thing to learn is to call this ministry before doing anything of importance regarding trust affairs.** The ministry mailed the pastor a PowerPoint which explains all about the EIN to be used "for banking purposes only" and how to fill out the SS-4 application form.

Featured Sermons, Essays, and Books

Short Course Studies: Go to [Bible Doctrine Concerning the Relationship of Church and State](#). A born again church member who understands that doctrine will never be satisfied with corporate 501(c)(3) status or any other legal status which compromises a church's love for the Savior. The main thrust of these studies is to show that a church who claims to be a church under Christ should never become part of the legal system (a church established under man's law). One may disagree with these studies on some matters; but we can still work together if we agree that a church should refuse to subject herself to man's law through incorporation, 501(c)(3) or 508 status, charitable or business trust status, unincorporated association status, or by any other means. One should be able to support his belief in separation of church and state with Bible reasoning. It helps to also understand the history and meaning of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. See [The History of the First Amendment](#).

Article and webpages published in December 2019: [The Chickens are Coming Home to Roost: The impending consequences of church corporate tax exempt status: civil government denial of federal tax exemption, property tax exemption and other benefits: student loss of church owned properties, denial of student loans, the end of charitable hospital services, etc.; Questionnaire 1; Questionnaire 2](#)

Links to short teachings on questions important to churches under Christ: [Short Answers to Some Important Questions.](#)

For answers to false arguments given by uninformed pastors and “Christian” Attorneys for church corporate 501(c)(3) status, see [Separation of Church and State/God’s Churches: Spiritual or Legal Entities?](#)

Books by Jerald Finney are free online in PDF, online form, and Kindle, and may be ordered. Go to the [free online, PDF and order page for books by Jerald Finney.](#)

[Churches Under Christ Ministry Website](#)

[Biblical Law Center Website](#)

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR ANY REASON. YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

For the Glory of God,
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